

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 3, 2004, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the application as amended is considered to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Applicants hereby affirm the election without traverse of the invention of Group I, claims 1-18. Newly added claims 26-51 are also directed to the invention of Group I.

In the present application, claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The amendment to claim 6 is not intended, and should not be construed, as narrowing the claim. Claims 26-51 have been added to augment claim scope.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,346,831 to *Krishnamurthy et al.* In response, the Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of claims 1-18 and of new claims 26-51 is not anticipated by that reference.

The applied reference is silent on any reasons for body-biasing the keeper. Instead, the reference focuses on forward body-biasing the pull-down network transistors to enhance evaluation speed or reverse body-biasing them to reduce leakage. For example, in column 7, lines 13-17, the analysis set forth in the reference is valid for the pull-down transistors, but not valid with regard to a body-biased keeper transistor.

By contrast, the present invention has a goal of enhancing noise immunity by body-biasing the keeper. The applied reference is silent on that subject. That

distinction is brought out further in newly added claims 50 and 51, which recite techniques not taught or suggested by the applied reference.

A particularly advantageous way to enhance noise immunity is to supply the body bias voltage such that the body bias voltage alternates between the two values in accordance with an operational phase of the domino logic circuit. That technique is recited in newly added claims 26-49. The portion of *Krishnamurthy et al* '696 cited in the Office Action for that teaching actually teaches nothing of the kind, but instead merely describes the voltage change at the dynamic node Q . Therefore, newly added claims 26-49 are not anticipated.

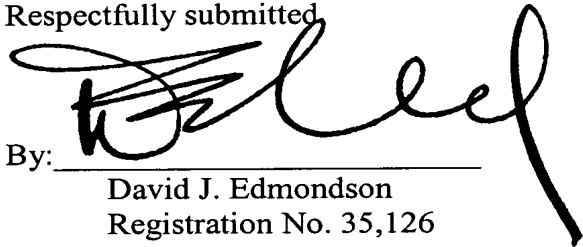
Finally, newly added claims 27-33, 35-41 and 43-49 recite details of the source which are not taught or even vaguely suggested in the applied reference. Therefore, those claims are not anticipated.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain that can be overcome most easily through a telephone communication, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment thereof, to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000687-00302). If a separate petition for extension of time does not accompany this Amendment or is insufficient to render this Amendment timely, the Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this Amendment timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted



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